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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 20, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 14 totaled an estimated 18.9 billion ton-miles, 2.1 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 11 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 196.5 billion ton-miles, 1.1 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 14 totaled 448,476 cars, 2.4 percent below 1980, and 2.1 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.6 percent in the East, but down 1.4 percent in the South, and 5.8 percent in the West. Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 9,547 cars, or 8.6 percent, and metallic ores posted a gain of 4,661 cars, or 19.0 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended March 7 totaled 33,932 cars, down 4.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 61,143 trailers and/or containers, down 6.5 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 10 weeks of the year was 310,732 cars, 6.6 percent lower than last year, and 561,946 trailers and/or containers, down 6.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/14/81:

	Loadings in Week ended March 14, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,964	D	4,783	15.1	D	6,341	19.0
Other farm products	3,773	D	12	0.3	D	622	14.2
Metallic ores	29,192	I	4,661	19.0	I	2,474	9.3
Coal	120,763	I	9,547	8.6	D	10,077	7.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,932	D	800	5.8	I	1,583	14.0
Nonmetallic minerals	13,496	D	786	5.5	I	322	2.4
Grain mill products	15,459	D	2,513	14.0	I	180	1.0
Food and kindred products	16,174	D	3,025	15.8	D	234	1.4
Primary forest products	19,744	D	397	2.0	I	158	1.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,543	D	1,780	17.2	D	266	3.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,214	D	985	4.6	D	666	3.2
Chemicals and allied products	29,327	D	1,140	3.7	I	948	3.3
Petroleum products	5,318	D	1,004	15.9	I	280	5.6
Stone, clay and glass products	14,680	D	1,602	9.8	I	62	0.4
Coke	6,481	D	1,048	13.9	I	300	4.9
Metals and products	16,806	D	1,704	9.2	D	520	3.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,586	D	2,048	9.9	I	887	5.0
Waste and scrap materials	14,524	I	378	2.7	I	1,453	11.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,199	D	593	5.0	D	360	3.1
All other carloads	43,853	D	1,756	3.9	I	1,043	2.4
LCL traffic	448	I	192	75.0	D	15	3.2
Total Cars Loaded	448,476	D	11,198	2.4	D	9,411	2.1
Corresponding week of 1980	459,674						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (11 weeks)	4,705,290	4,814,868	D	2.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
10 Weeks cumulative	177.6	175.1	I	1.4
Week ended March 14	18.9	19.3	D	2.1
11 Weeks cumulative	196.5	194.4	I	1.1

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